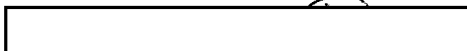


COUNCIL ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20500

MEMORANDUM FOR: MAURICE ERNST
Director of Economic Research
Central Intelligence Agency

FROM:



STAT

SUBJECT:

Information System for CIEP

For your information.

Attachment: Mar 29 memo

Cop 7 for A O O I

March 29, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: JON ROSE

FROM:



STAT

SUBJECT: Information System for CIEP

I. Objective: To develop an information support system to succinctly and rapidly provide information on current international economic issues to PMF and to provide the information needed by other Staff Members in order to carry out their functions more effectively. The system should be sufficiently flexible so that it can be enlarged to include STR, to provide support to other high-level policy-makers who may desire to make use of it, and to provide operational assistance for the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations.

II. Purpose and functions of initial system.

A. Support system for PMF

Prepare daily bulletin highlighting significant international economic developments of interest on an all-source basis. When appropriate, analytical or background material would be included. Bulletin would be delivered to PMF before 8 AM meeting. PMF could indicate any additional information he wants, or subjects that should be covered more fully; some degree of feedback is necessary to ensure smooth and effective operation of system. Selection of subject matter would focus on topics of known pertinence to CIEP's mission, as well as matters specifically flagged by PMF and "early-warning" information indicating the likelihood of potentially serious international economic developments.

B. For all other Staff Members -- Both raw material and analysis would be obtained on the broadest possible basis consistent with the needs of the staff. Distribution would be worked out so that quick routing of needed items is ensured with minimal bottlenecks.

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Perhaps only selected raw traffic would be routed around for reading, while retaining a more general current reading board at the information center available for viewing there. This would avoid delays in cable-board routing and ensure that the reader can always see the latest traffic which has arrived.

C. In general, an improved reference collection of official as well as non-governmental publications, classified as well as unclassified, would be established.

III. Incoming information: sources and selection.

A. Government:

Cables, airgrams, and memos of State, CIA, NSA, Agriculture, Treasury, A.I.D. and Commerce

Published documents dealing with international economic issues; also news releases.

B. Non-Government:

Publications of businesses, trade unions, and associations;
Press ticker. We recommend that we subscribe to Reuter's specialized international economic/financial service, which does a better job than the other wire services in focussing on matters of interest to the Council. We can rely on other coverage already available in the in the building for the more general (AP, UPI) wire services.

C. Library

Some 10-20 major reference documents such as International Financial Statistics, Survey of Current Business, Treasury Bulletin, IMF-Balance of Payments Yearbook.

D. Up-to-date Basic Economic Data for OECD countries:

Balance of payments by major components
Trade - value and volume
GNP by major components and growth rates both nominal and real
Industrial production
Currency rates
Prices -- consumer, wholesale, export and import
Foreign exchange reserves

IV. Personnel, space and equipment needed

A. Personnel. In addition to a senior official in charge of the entire information support system, there will initially have to be at least one, perhaps two, highly-qualified reader/drafters and one secretary. Xeroxing as well as some support with regard to handling of subscriptions and mail will require some help from the Executive Secretariat. Ultimately, the system probably calls for an early morning reading and drafting shift, and one secretary arriving at 0700, in order to produce an effective current briefing bulletin by 0800.

B. Space needed. Initially we would suggest three rooms: One as the office of the man running the system, where some privacy for conversations with representatives of other White House as well as outside organizations could be held; one where the one or two reader/drafters (on overlapping shifts, eventually) could work; and a third containing reference center as well as secretarial space. The entire complex should be a secure area if we intend to tap into classified materials at all levels.

C. Equipment needed. Initially we could subscribe to a wire ticker; no other equipment other than normal office equipment would be needed. Eventually additional communications gear might be advisable, but we would recommend holding off on such plans until our effort has become operational, so we can better judge what will pay off most effectively.